

REMARKS

Applicant amended the Abstract per Examiner's comments 1, 2.

Applicant cancelled claims 2, 3, 6, 7, 8 and 10, all without prejudice, to facilitate further examination and allowance of this Application.

Applicant reserves its right to reintroduce claims essentially corresponding to the cancelled claims, upon indication by the Examiner of allowable subject matter.

35 USC 103

The present invention (Arthanari et al., claim 1 as amended) is an invention that plans the location of clock buffers (i.e. intelligent clock driver floor planning). The clock buffers can be small single point clock buffers or large clock buffers with multiple drive points.

Carrig et al. 5,339,253 patent (1994), is describing a balanced clock router. This router of Carrig '253 assumes clock drivers have a single drive point, and does not seem to describe how to handle large structured clock buffers with multiple output pins (drive points). The '253 patent starts by looking at sink locations and pairing them, and finding "drive points" that result in minimum balanced wiring. The drive points described in the '253 patent are connect points for the wires and are not placement points for clock sources as set forth in Applicant's claim 1 (e.g., "connecting a source of clock signals").

Zhu et al. 5,866,924 patent (1999) also describes a balanced clock router. The router of Zhu et al. also assumes clock drivers have a single drive point, and does not describe how to handle large structured clock buffers with multiple output pins. The '924 patent uses a different technique than the Carrig et al. '253 patent. The '924 patent describes locating the source and sinks to be connected, and then determining intermediate "balance points". Again, the drive points described in the '924 patent are connect points for the wires, and not placement points for clock sources as set forth in Applicant's claim 1.

Thus, Applicant believes neither the '253 patent nor the '924 patent, either singly or in combination, discloses, teaches or suggests, for example, the "connecting" steps of claim 1, let alone in combination with the remaining steps of claim 1.

Entry and allowance of claims 1, 4, 5 and 9 are solicited.

Respectfully Submitted,
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